

Community Relations Plan  
for the  
Abex Corporation Superfund Site  
Portsmouth, Virginia

Prepared for  
EPA Region III

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For additional information, contact:  
Harold Yates  
Office of External Affairs  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
(215) 597-4081

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## Preface

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The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region III developed this Community Relations Plan for the Abex Corporation Superfund Site (the Site). EPA Region III is conducting activities at the Site under the guidelines of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), a federal law passed in 1980 and commonly known as “Superfund”; the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA), enacted in 1986; and the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP), revised in 1990.

This Community Relations Plan updates the May 1990 Community Relations Plan for the Site prepared by the Virginia Department of Waste Management (VDWM). At the time, VDWM was the agency with primary responsibility for Superfund community relations activities at the Site. On April 1, 1993, VDWM was consolidated with other Virginia agencies to create the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Currently, EPA is the agency with primary responsibility for all Superfund activities at the Site. DEQ acts as a support agency at the Site, assisting EPA where necessary.

This Community Relations Plan is designed to enhance community involvement and facilitate two-way communication between EPA and community members. It reflects EPA’s commitment to acknowledging and addressing the Site-related concerns expressed by local residents, community groups, public officials, media representatives, and other stakeholders in the long-term Site cleanup.

## Section 1

### Overview of the Community Relations Plan

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Lead contamination is a widespread problem throughout the country, and the hazards of lead poisoning are well documented. For these and other reasons, environmental lead contamination is a “hot button” issue which can evoke strong responses from affected persons. The main threats to human health and the environment at the Abex Corporation Superfund Site involve lead contamination. The Site includes private homes and a public housing development. Among current and former Site residents, concern about the Site is relatively high.

This Community Relations Plan will be used by EPA in conducting community relations activities as part of the Superfund process at the Site. EPA recognizes that the community in the Site area is a diverse group with diverse Site-related concerns. The activities outlined in this Plan are intended to address these concerns. EPA has a basic obligation to keep community members informed about the progress of the long-term Site cleanup. In addition, EPA has an obligation to provide adequate opportunity for public input.

The Community Relations Plan comprises the seven sections listed below.

#### *Overview of the Community Relations Plan*

- **EPA Background:** This section provides an overview of Superfund and briefly profiles relevant EPA sections, divisions, branches, and offices. It also explains the roles in the Site cleanup played by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).
- **Site Description and History:** This section briefly describes the Site and summarizes its history from 1928 through April 1994.
- **Community Background:** This section includes a profile of the community in the Site area and a history of community relations at the Site.
- **Goals of the Community Relations Plan:** This section lists four goals involving EPA, residents, public officials, and local news media.
- **Community Relations Activities:** This section describes the activities that EPA will conduct to achieve its community relations goals at the Site.
- **Appendices:** Appendix A provides names, addresses, and telephone numbers of federal, State, and local officials; local media outlets; and other interested parties. Appendix B lists locations for public meetings and stenographic information. Appendix C provides information about the local information repository. Appendix D is a glossary of relevant technical terms. Appendix E provides Technical Assistance Grant information. Appendix F is a sample Site fact sheet.

This Community Relations Plan draws on information from many sources, including EPA Site files; public meetings, community interviews, and availability sessions conducted by EPA; and input from public officials. The EPA Region III office has lead responsibility for Superfund

activities at the Site, and will oversee the implementation of all activities outlined in this Plan. DEQ is the support agency at the Site. (See Section 2, pages 3–6, for more information about Superfund, EPA, and DEQ.)

## **Section 2**

### **EPA Background**

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#### **2.1 Superfund**

Superfund is the nation's program to clean up uncontrolled and abandoned hazardous waste sites. The Federal regulation that guides the Superfund program is the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP), which was revised in 1990. The Superfund law, officially known as the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), was passed by Congress in 1980 and amended in 1986 by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA). Superfund:

- gives EPA the authority to stop releases or potential releases of hazardous substances;
- enables EPA to compel those responsible for site contamination to pay for cleanup;
- provides funding for cleanup when money from responsible parties is not available.

#### ***Identifying Sites for Cleanup***

Under the Superfund program, EPA investigates hazardous waste sites throughout America. EPA conducts an initial review of each site and, if further action is warranted, evaluates the site using the Hazard Ranking System. This is a statistical tool which assigns each site a score based mainly on the potential spread of contaminants through ground water, surface water, or air. It also takes into account other factors, such as the location of nearby residents. EPA places the most serious sites on the National Priorities List (NPL), its roster of sites identified for possible cleanup using Superfund money. (At any point in this process—either before, during, or after EPA uses the Hazard Ranking System—EPA can take immediate action to prevent a hazardous substance release.)

#### ***Selecting and Implementing the Cleanup Plan***

After EPA places a site on the National Priorities List, it supervises a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study. This investigation and study provide a detailed picture of site contamination and assess ways to permanently reduce or eliminate it. Next, EPA reviews the cleanup alternatives and selects a preferred alternative. EPA announces this preliminary selection in a document called the Proposed Remedial Action Plan (Proposed Plan). Following a public comment period, during which it solicits input from local residents, public officials, and other parties, EPA makes its final selection of a cleanup method. EPA announces this selection in the Record of Decision. The next steps are Remedial Design and Remedial Action, during which EPA supervises the design and implementation of the cleanup plan outlined in the Record of Decision. When necessary, EPA can release a new Proposed Plan and amend the Record of Decision to reflect significant changes in the cleanup plan. Only after EPA has determined that all appropriate cleanup actions have been completed at a site does it delete that site from the National Priorities List.

## **2.2 Relevant EPA Groups**

EPA manages and enforces the nation's environmental laws. Based in Washington, D.C., it includes 10 regional offices, each of which includes community relations and technical staff involved in Superfund site cleanups. EPA Region III covers Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and Washington, D.C. The EPA Region III regional office, located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, includes several offices, divisions, branches, and sections.

### ***Superfund Community Relations Section (Region III)***

This section, part of EPA's Office of External Affairs, oversees communication between EPA and all residents, public officials, media representatives, and community groups associated with Superfund sites. The Superfund Community Relations program for each site involves the planning, coordination, and implementation of activities designed to facilitate communication and enhance community involvement. Each site has a Community Relations Coordinator who works closely with EPA technical staff to keep the local community informed and involved. (See Appendix A for the name, address, and telephone number of the EPA Region III Community Relations Coordinator for the Abex Corporation Superfund Site.)

### ***Hazardous Waste Management Division (Region III)***

This division oversees the development and implementation of Superfund program activities, as well as Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) activities. It includes the Office of Superfund Programs, the Superfund Removal Branch, the Superfund General Remedial Branch, and the Office of RCRA Programs.

### ***Superfund Removal Branch (Region III)***

Part of EPA's Hazardous Waste Management Division, the Superfund Removal Branch manages short-term actions and emergency responses. These actions include responses to accidental releases of hazardous substances, as well as short-term work at sites on EPA's National Priorities List. Removal actions are supervised by EPA On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs).

### ***Superfund General Remedial Branch (Region III)***

This branch is responsible for all long-term technical work at Superfund sites in Virginia, West Virginia, Delaware, and Maryland, including site assessments, remedial investigations and feasibility studies, treatability tests, and remedial (cleanup) design and action. (Long-term work at Superfund sites in Pennsylvania is handled by the Superfund Pennsylvania Remedial Branch.) Each site has a Remedial Project Manager, who supervises the work done by other EPA technical staff, private contractors, and other parties involved in site study and cleanup. (See Appendix A for the name, address, and telephone number of the EPA Region III Remedial Project Manager for the Abex Corporation Superfund Site.)

### ***Environmental Response Team***



The Environmental Response Team (ERT) is a branch of the Emergency Response Division of EPA's Office of Emergency and Remedial Response. ERT includes hazardous waste experts who provide 24-hour technical assistance to EPA regional offices. ERT staff members are involved in the testing of remedial technologies throughout the country, and can provide assistance during Superfund site cleanups.

## **2.3 Other Relevant Government Groups**

### ***Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry***

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) is part of the Public Health Service within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. ATSDR conducts Public Health Assessments at Superfund sites to evaluate data and information on the release of hazardous substances into the environment.

### ***Virginia Department of Environmental Quality***

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), as part of its own Virginia Superfund Program, acts as the support agency during EPA-led study and cleanup at federal Superfund sites in Virginia. DEQ staff involved in activities at the Abex Corporation Superfund Site include the DEQ Project Manager assigned to the Site. (See Appendix A for the name, address, and telephone number of the DEQ Project Manager.) DEQ's involvement in the Site cleanup includes reviewing and commenting on Site work plans and studies, participating in community relations activities, and providing technical assistance to EPA.

## Section 3

### Site Description and History

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#### 3.1 Site Description

The Abex Corporation Site is located in the eastern section of Portsmouth, Virginia, approximately 1.2 miles southwest of the confluence of the southern and eastern branches of the Elizabeth River. (See Figure 1, page 8.) The Site encompasses a multi-block area with numerous parcels of land. (See Figure 2, page 9.) The Site contains the former Abex brass and bronze foundry, which is comprised of five buildings (referred to as the Holland Property), and associated former waste sand disposal areas (referred to as the Abex Lot and the McCready Lot). Other areas within the approximate 700-foot Site radius have contamination associated, at least in part, with the former foundry operation.



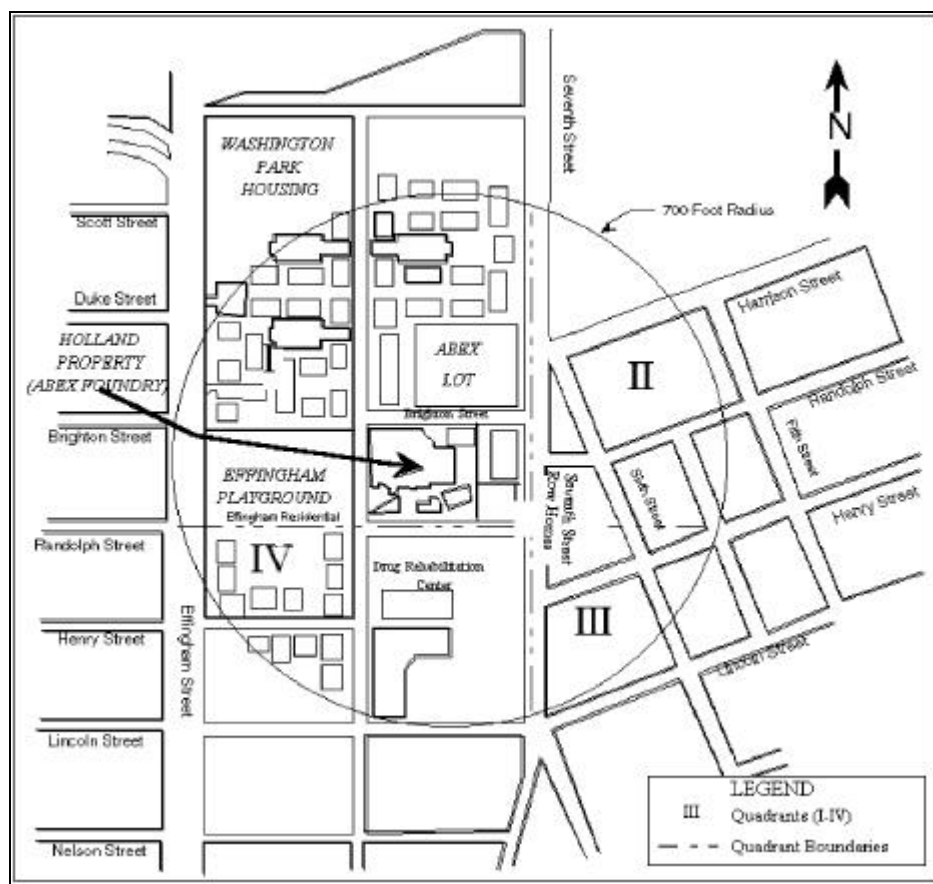
*Figure 1*  
*Site Location Map*

The location of the Site properties are described as follows: The Holland Property is located in the block bounded on the east by Seventh Street, on the south by Randolph Street, on the west by Green Street, and on the north by Brighton Street. The Abex Lot is located immediately north of the Holland Property. The Washington Park Housing Project is located both northeast of the Holland Property and north of the Abex Lot. The Effingham Playground is located west of the Holland Property. Private residential properties (the Effingham residential area) are located south of the playground and southwest of the Holland Property. A drug rehabilitation center and a small shopping center are located south of the Holland Property. The McCready Lot is located southeast of the Holland Property at the northwest intersection of Randolph and Seventh Streets.

Several row homes are located north of the McCready Lot and immediately east of the Holland Property. Several vacant lots are located east of Seventh Street. The Washington Park Housing Project is currently zoned for residential use by the city of Portsmouth. The remaining properties are zoned for commercial and light industrial use.

The contamination problems at the Abex Corporation Site are complex. As a result, EPA and VDWI organized the work into two operable units (OUs). Operable Unit 1 (OU1) includes contamination in the soil and waste sands on the Holland Property, the Abex Lot, the McCready Lot, and in the surrounding properties within an approximately 700-foot radius of the foundry facility.

Operable Unit 2 (OU2) includes potential contamination of the shallow and deep aquifers, ecological impacts, and additional soil contamination that may exist beyond the approximate 700-foot radius being addressed in OU1.



*Figure 2*  
*Site Layout Map*

The Remedial Investigation (RI) for OU1 identified lead as the primary contaminant of concern at the Site. Lead was detected in soils on the Holland Property, under the asphalt-capped Abex and McCready Lots, and in surrounding residential and non-residential areas at levels that pose an actual or potential threat to human health and the environment.

### **3.2 Site History**

From 1928 to 1978, a brass and bronze foundry located on Green Street operated at what is now the Site. The foundry melted used railroad car journal bearings, which were over 80 percent bronze, and poured the molten material into sand molds to cast new railroad car bearings. A 1993 report prepared by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) states that, during the period the foundry operated, approximately seven million pounds of used bearings were recycled and 6.6 million pounds of new bearings were produced annually. Sand casts used during facility operations eventually became laden with heavy metals such as lead, antimony, copper, tin, and zinc. Disposal of foundry sands and stack emissions from smelting furnaces resulted in lead contamination at and in the vicinity of the Site.

The National Bearing Metal Corporation purchased the foundry property in May 1927 and operated the foundry at the Site from 1928 until December 1944. American Brake Shoe Company bought the foundry in December 1944 and operated it until May 1966. At that time, Abex purchased the facility and operated the foundry until it closed in 1978. During Abex's operation of the foundry, workers disposed of waste sand in an approximately one-acre area immediately north of the foundry building. When the foundry operation closed, Abex graded this disposal area, which is referred to as the Abex Lot, and secured it with a seven-foot cyclone fence. Pneumo Abex Corporation, the successor of Abex Corporation, still owns most of the Abex Lot. In 1977, Runnymede Corporation, a real estate investment company, purchased a small parcel of the Abex Lot from Abex. Runnymede still owns this parcel, but no further development has occurred.

In 1984, Holland Investment and Manufacturing Corporation purchased the portion of the Site that contains the foundry building and several smaller associated structures. Holland Investment and Manufacturing Corporation allowed John C. Holland Enterprises, Inc., which is a trash hauling business, to conduct vehicle service and maintenance on the property.

During operation and following closure of the foundry, many of the parcels located nearby have changed ownership and have been redeveloped for other uses. These areas include the Washington Park Housing Project, the drug rehabilitation center, the Effingham Playground, and numerous private residences.

In January 1983, an EPA contractor visited the Site to observe the conditions at the Abex Lot. No sampling was conducted during this preliminary assessment. EPA contractors returned to the Site in June 1984 to perform a site inspection and collected several samples from the Abex Lot. Sample results detected high levels of lead, as well as zinc, copper, tin, and antimony. In April 1986, EPA collected additional soil samples from the Washington Park Housing Project and other properties adjoining the Abex Site.

In August of 1986, EPA entered into a Consent Order with Abex for the excavation and removal of contaminated soil at varying depths (generally 6 to 12 inches) from certain residential areas around the Abex Lot. The areas to be addressed included portions of the Washington Park Housing Project, the Effingham Playground, and the Seventh Street row homes. All excavated areas were filled with clean soil and revegetated. Abex also paved and fenced the Abex Lot and the McCready Lot.

The analytical data collected at the Site were used to evaluate the relative hazards posed by the Abex Site using EPA's Hazard Ranking System (HRS). EPA uses the HRS to calculate a score for hazardous waste sites based upon the presence of potential and observed hazards. If the final HRS score exceeds 28.5, the site is placed on the National Priorities List (NPL), making it eligible to receive Superfund monies for remedial cleanup. An HRS score of 36.53 was calculated for the Abex Corporation Site. As a result, EPA proposed the Site for inclusion on the NPL on June 24, 1988, and subsequently finalized it on the NPL on August 28, 1990.

On June 2, 1989, EPA issued Special Notice Letters to Abex Corporation and the Holland Investment and Manufacturing Corporation (Holland Investment) offering them the opportunity to perform the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) for the Site. On October 10, 1989, VDWM, serving as the lead agency, entered into an Administrative Order on Consent with Abex. Under the terms of the Order, Abex agreed to conduct the RI/FS at the Site to determine the nature and extent of Site contamination and to identify remedial alternatives for Site-related contamination.

Based on the findings of the draft RI/FS report submitted in October 1991 and the final RI/FS report dated February 1992, EPA determined that lead-contaminated surface soil within the Effingham residential area, and at a few additional locations in the Washington Park Housing Project and the Effingham Playground, presented a short-term threat to human health. As a result, EPA issued a Unilateral Administrative Order on March 30, 1992 to Abex requiring that Abex remove such soils from the Site. Abex agreed to perform the removal action, and subsequently excavated and removed additional contaminated surface soil in the Washington Park Housing Project, the Effingham Playground, and the Effingham residential area.

On September 29, 1992, EPA signed a Record of Decision (ROD) announcing its selection of a remedy to permanently clean up the section of the Site designated as Operable Unit One. The Commonwealth of Virginia concurred on the selected remedy. Subsequently, in April 1993, EPA notified fourteen parties of their potential liability for Site contamination and requested that they implement the ROD. In October 1993, three of these fourteen potentially responsible parties submitted proposed changes to the ROD based on new information from the City of Portsmouth on proposed land use plans and on new controls on future excavation. (The potentially responsible parties identified with the proposed changes to the ROD are Abex Corporation, the City of Portsmouth, and the Portsmouth Redevelopment and Housing Authority.)

In November 1993, EPA conducted public availability sessions to solicit input from affected residents regarding the proposed changes to the ROD submitted by the potentially responsible parties. In February 1994, after thoroughly evaluating both the proposed changes to the ROD and public response to the changes, EPA issued a new Proposed Plan. This document, the Proposed

Plan to Amend the Record of Decision Issued September 29, 1992, highlights EPA's revised preferred alternative for the long-term cleanup of Operable Unit One. As of this writing, EPA is evaluating public comment on the February 1994 Proposed Plan, and has not yet decided if the 1992 ROD will be amended.

Both the cleanup plan detailed in EPA's September 1992 ROD and the revised cleanup plan highlighted in its February 1994 Proposed Plan include the following elements:

- demolition of former foundry buildings;
- soil excavation and offsite disposal;
- temporary relocation of residents affected by soil excavation;
- soil treatment by stabilization and/or solidification;
- discharge of contaminated water and other water generated during cleanup activities;
- monitoring of air emissions during cleanup activities; and
- transportation, storage, treatment, and disposal of soil and debris.

The proposed changes submitted by Abex Corporation, the City of Portsmouth, and the Portsmouth Redevelopment and Housing Authority involve the nature and extent of soil excavation, the purchase and demolition of homes, rezoning a portion of the Site for local government use (including a planned police station), and controls on future development.

## Section 4

### Community Background

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#### 4.1 Community Profile

The City of Portsmouth, Virginia, home of the Abex Corporation Superfund Site, is located just southwest of Norfolk, Virginia. It covers 30 square miles, and is part of the South Hampton Roads region, which consists of five independent cities: Chesapeake, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Suffolk, and Virginia Beach. According to a 1993 demographic study published by *The Virginian-Pilot* and *The Ledger Star*, Portsmouth has a population of 103,500, contains 38,800 households, and has a median household income of \$27,734.

The Portsmouth government includes a mayor, vice-mayor, and five councilpersons, as well as a city manager, director of management and legislative affairs, public health director, and director of public affairs. Local media outlets include *The Virginian-Pilot* and *The Ledger Star*, a daily newspaper, and *The Portsmouth Times*, published weekly. Two area newspapers focus on the African-American community: *New Journal and Guide*, published weekly in Norfolk, and *Citizens Press America*, a Portsmouth monthly. The area is served by several radio and television stations, including WAVY-TV (Channel 10) and WGNT-TV (Channel 27), which are located in Portsmouth. (See Appendix A for a listing of public officials, local media outlets, and other interested parties.)

The Site area, one of the oldest sections of Portsmouth, was incorporated into the City limits in 1784. The U.S. Naval shipyard, located less than a mile southeast of the Site, commenced operation in 1767 and presently covers approximately 800 acres. The Portsmouth area experienced rapid growth during World Wars I and II when the U.S. Navy expanded its shipyard, hospitals, and docking facilities. The population in the one-mile radius surrounding the Site reached a high of 30,930 in 1950, and subsequently declined to 27,575 in 1960, 19,940 in 1970, and 15,117 in 1980. Currently, EPA estimates that approximately 10,000 persons live or work within a mile of the Site.

The primary employers in Portsmouth are municipal and federal government installations. Recent reductions in military spending have had a significant impact on the local economy. Bright spots in the local economy include the development of harbor-side retail establishments and tourist attractions such as Portside and Olde Harbour Market. Portsmouth is home to several museums, including the Children's Museum of Virginia, the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Museum, and the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame.

The Site community, which is densely populated, includes row houses, public housing developments, and single-family dwellings, as well as local businesses, several schools and day care centers, and a number of churches. A newly-refurbished YMCA near the Site includes a basketball court, fitness machines, and day care facilities. The Washington Park housing development bordering the Site has a population of approximately 470 persons. (It was

constructed in 1964, over a decade before foundry operations at the Site ceased). Administration of Washington Park falls under the aegis of the Portsmouth Redevelopment and Housing Authority. According to the 1990 Community Relations Plan developed by the Virginia Department of Waste Management, most residents in the immediate Site area are African-American, and either hold blue-collar, industrial jobs or receive government social-service subsidies.

For residents involved in one of the many churches in the Site area, church activities provide opportunities for networking and discussion about community news. For both Washington Park residents and homeowners in the Site area, word-of-mouth is a primary source of information about local events. Community organizations which have provided input to EPA regarding the Site cleanup include the Washington Park Tenants Council and People Against Ruthless Injustices in the System (PARIS). The latter group was awarded an EPA Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) to review and interpret Site reports. However, at the request of the president of PARIS, EPA terminated the TAG in 1995.

Although the Site cleanup is a high priority for some local residents, it is by no means the only issue which occupies community members. Other key issues mentioned during recent EPA discussions with residents include the need for additional low-income housing, a proposed racetrack, the siting and construction of a new high school, and crime.

## **4.2 History of Community Involvement and Concerns**

Information obtained by EPA during community interviews and availability sessions indicates that some long-time residents had Site-related health concerns prior to EPA's preliminary assessment of the Site in 1983. At least one resident, including an individual who has lived in the Site area for over three decades, has told EPA of concerns about children playing on or near the foundry property. The 1990 Community Relations Plan developed by VDWM refers to a period in the early 1980s when high blood lead levels of Washington Park children were linked to Site contamination. In 1981, Abex Corporation reportedly made an out-of-court settlement involving five children with high blood lead levels.

In response to concerns regarding lead contamination in the Site area, testing of area residents and soil was conducted in 1986. During this period, the City of Portsmouth Department of Public Health participated in a blood lead level screening. VDWM's 1990 Community Relations Plan states that the Portsmouth Department of Public Health's 1986 study concluded that lead levels in the blood of children living in the Site area were most likely associated with lead-based housepaint. A 1992 document prepared by the Portsmouth Department of Public Health, referring to the 1986 blood lead level screening, noted that, at the time, the Health Director felt that there was no significant health hazard from lead.

VDWM, during research for its 1990 Community Relations Plan, contacted several local groups which, according to the City of Portsmouth, might express an interest in the Site cleanup. VDWM wrote letters explaining the upcoming Site cleanup and associated community relations activities, and sent the letters to representatives of the following groups: the Prentiss Park Civic League, the



Washington Park Tenant's Council, the Effingham Conservation Area, and the Black Concerned Citizens League. As of May 1990, when VDWM released its Community Relations Plan, none of these groups had responded to the letters.

In October 1991, the federal Centers for Disease Control (CDC), based in Atlanta, Georgia, released new guidelines regarding lead poisoning. Concerns about lead poisoning and Site contamination were raised by Site area residents during several subsequent community meetings in Portsmouth.

EPA and VDWM released The RI/FS Report and the Proposed Plan for the Site in April 1992. The Proposed Plan described remedial alternatives being considered by EPA and VDWM and identified EPA's preferred alternative at that time. The notice of the availability of the Proposed Plan and the Administrative Record was published in *The Virginian-Pilot* and *The Ledger-Star* on April 28, 1992. This notice also invited the public to a meeting on May 7, 1992 to discuss the Proposed Plan with EPA and VDWM. The public was encouraged to review the Proposed Plan and the Administrative Record files and to submit comments on the proposed remedial alternatives to EPA and VDWM. The public comment period was initially scheduled to be open from April 29, 1992 through May 29, 1992, the required 30-day period. At the request of local citizens, EPA and VDWM extended the public comment period, which formally closed on July 10, 1992.

A public meeting was held on May 7, 1992, during the public comment period. At this meeting, representatives from VDWM and EPA answered questions about the Site and discussed the remedial alternatives under consideration, as well as the short-term removal action that was about to proceed. Approximately 30 people, including residents from the impacted area, local government official, a representative from Pneumo Abex, and VDWM and EPA representatives, attended the public meeting.

EPA and representative from MaeCorp, Abex's contractor implementing the removal action, visited homes in the Effingham residential area after the public meeting to try to secure access for the removal work. During these visits, EPA also provided additional explanations about the remedial actions presented in the Proposed Plan. After these visits, members of the Madison Ward Civic League requested that EPA and VDWM meet with the Effingham residents to further discuss their concerns.

Representatives from EPA and VDWM met with approximately 30 Effingham residents on May 28, 1992, and June 9, 1992, to discuss the proposed removal and remedial actions and the health effects associated with lead contamination on their properties. During this period, community awareness and concern about the proposed cleanup activities increased significantly. On June 25, 1992, representative from EPA, VDWM, the City of Portsmouth Department of Public Health, and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Diseases Registry (ATSDR), met with approximately 60 residents at the community center in the Washington Park Housing Project to provide an additional opportunity for impacted residents to gain information about the health effects of the lead contamination and to discuss the proposed removal and remedial actions. In addition to meetings with the local residents, EPA and VDWM met with local officials on several occasions

during this period.

As a result of the June 25, 1992, meeting, the Portsmouth Department of Public Health began offering free blood-lead testing to residents in the impacted area. On July 15, July 17, July 25, August 8, and August 18, 1992, a team of Department of Public Health clerical and laboratory staff visited the Washington Park neighborhood and conducted blood lead level tests of residents. The tests were voluntary and free of charge. In addition, the Department of Public Health offered residents the option of receiving blood lead level tests at the Department office. Some residents selected this option. During July and August of 1992, a total of 546 individuals were tested.

Although the public comment period was closed, EPA held a fifth meeting with the local community at the request of the City of Portsmouth Mayor and City Council. The meeting, which lasted approximately five hours, was held on August 26, 1992. Representatives from the City of Portsmouth Health Department, ATSDR, VDWI, and EPA addressed questions from approximately 150 local residents about health effects of lead contamination and the proposed cleanup of the Site.

By September 4, 1992, the Portsmouth Department of Public Health had performed 557 blood lead level tests of residents. Representatives from the Portsmouth Health Department notified families of the test results as they became available and advised families on appropriate follow-up measures, where warranted. Although four percent of the residents tested, all children, were found to have elevated blood lead levels, the Department of Public Health concluded that no patients required medical intervention and a medical emergency did not exist. However, children with elevated blood lead levels were contacted by telephone or home health nurse visit, and were given an appointment to a lead follow-up clinic at the Department of Public Health clinic, as well as the opportunity to receive care from another provider. Follow-up work for affected households included referrals for water evaluation (to the Portsmouth Department of Public Utilities) and for lead paint and soil investigations (done by the Department of Public Health's Environmental Health Division).

Despite reassurances by the Portsmouth Department of Public Health, some residents were not satisfied with the results of its lead level screening. On September 18, 1992, the Portsmouth Department of Public Health formally requested that ATSDR conduct a health consultation concerning the Site. ATSDR reviewed the Department of Public Health's blood lead testing results, evaluated additional Site data, and subsequently prepared a report, dated February 16, 1993. This report, which provided an overview of health effects associated with exposure to lead, recommended restricting access to Site buildings, providing environmental health education to the Site community, and offering repeat blood tests to affected residents.

In June 1993, EPA released a Site fact sheet updating the public on recent and future Site activities. The fact sheet mentioned the upcoming community interviews and explained that information obtained during the interviews would be used to develop the EPA Community Relations Plan. A follow-up EPA fact sheet, dated August 1993, discussed recent soil sampling results and announced that EPA had awarded a Technical Assistance Grant to a community group called People Against Ruthless Injustices in the System (PARIS). EPA awarded the grant to

PARIS so that the group could hire an independent technical advisor to review Site documents. The August 1993 fact sheet also announced that EPA staff would take part in an August 24 availability session at the Washington Park Community Center and address questions from residents.

On October 26 and 27, 1993, EPA staff traveled to Portsmouth for community interviews with local residents and members of the Portsmouth Department of Public Health. During these informal meetings, EPA staff took note of Site-related questions and concerns, and discussed ways to improve communication between EPA and community members.

EPA staff returned to Portsmouth in November 1993 to solicit community input on the Site cleanup changes requested by Abex Corporation, the City of Portsmouth, and the Portsmouth Redevelopment and Housing Authority. On November 8, 9, and 10, EPA community relations and technical staff, accompanied by representatives from DEQ, ATSDR, and the U.S. Department of Justice Community Relations Service, participated in public availability sessions at the Washington Park Community Center.

After reviewing the requested Site cleanup changes and assessing the comments and questions from the November 1993 availability sessions, EPA released its Proposed Plan to Amend the Record of Decision Issued September 22, 1992. The release of this new Proposed Plan on February 17, 1994 was announced in public notices placed in both *The Virginian Pilot* and *The Ledger Star* and *The Portsmouth Times*. The public notices highlighted the opening of a formal comment period on the new Proposed Plan, and stated that EPA staff would be in Portsmouth for availability sessions on February 23 and a public meeting the following day. Approximately 70 people attended the February 24 public meeting, including residents, local officials, and representatives from several area newspapers and television stations.

Information received by EPA during the October 1993 community interviews, February 24 public meeting, and recent availability sessions have revealed the community concerns summarized below.

- **Health Effects of Past Site Operations**

For residents who lived in the Site area prior to 1978, when foundry operations at the Site ceased, the health impact of industrial pollution associated with foundry operations is an area of concern. One long-time resident has told EPA of alleged pollution run-off from the foundry involving a shiny substance, and has expressed concern about contamination being spread as a result of flooding during heavy rain. This resident apparently believes that the City of Portsmouth was aware of pollution discharges during foundry operations, and should have addressed the problem at that time. A few residents have expressed concerns about having eaten vegetables grown in Site area soil.

- **Health Effects of Current Site Contamination**

Virtually all the community members contacted by EPA have expressed concern about the health

of residents, particularly children, in the Site area. Several residents have questioned whether it is safe for children to play in and dig Site soil. Residents have also voiced concerns about lead leaching into ground water and contaminating their drinking water. At least one resident alleges that Site lead contamination has impacted the mental abilities of children in Washington Park and turned them into “slow learners.” Despite the results of blood lead level testing conducted by the Portsmouth Health Department, which do not indicate any type of Site-related medical emergency, some residents have referred to being “stressed out” by fears about the health impact of Site contamination.

### ● **Duration of the Site Cleanup**

For many residents, fears about living for several years on what local news reports have termed a “tainted site,” as well as a lack of understanding about the complex Superfund remedial process, have fueled feelings of frustration about the duration of the Site cleanup. Some residents are angered by what they perceive to be the slow pace of the cleanup. Local news reports about the Site have referred to the fact that the lead contamination first identified over a decade ago has yet to be fully addressed.

### ● **Extent of the Site Cleanup**

Concerns about the duration of the Site cleanup are linked to concerns about its extent: How long will the cleanup last, and how much material (soil and structures) will it involve? Beginning at least as far back as June 1984, when EPA contractors collected samples from the Abex Lot, residents have had several opportunities to witness the examination, excavation, and removal of Site soil in their neighborhood and, in some cases, virtually at their doorstep. For homeowners in the two-block residential area south of the Effingham Playground, frustration may have reached a head when, during the 1992 soil excavation and removal conducted by Abex Corporation, they refused access to their properties. The homeowners expressed a desire to know the full extent of cleanup that would be required during this action before allowing access.

### ● **Community Involvement in the Decision-Making Process**

Several community members have expressed concerns about what they perceive to be their inability to shape EPA decisions about the Site cleanup. These decisions involve how EPA will clean up the Site, who will pay for the cleanup, how the health of affected residents will be assessed, and how residents will be relocated. Some community members have cited racial discrimination. They have alleged that, because most of the affected residents are African-American, officials did not address Site contamination as effectively as they could have. Some Washington Park tenants allege that they also have been discriminated against because they are poor.

### ● **Residential Relocation**

A common theme sounded by affected residents is a desire to have more control over how and

where they will be relocated. Some Washington Park residents feel that their desire for permanent relocation by EPA has not been adequately addressed. Unconvinced that EPA will be able to eliminate the health problems associated with Site contamination, they feel entitled to a new, safe place to live. Some Washington Park residents have contrasted their plight with that of the homeowners, who, under a cleanup option currently under consideration, will be able to sell their homes to the City of Portsmouth. At the same time, some homeowners feel that they have not gotten a fair shake, and believe that EPA should ensure that they receive property tax relief and fair market value for their homes.

### ● **Communication Between EPA and Community Members**

Some community members feel that EPA and other parties involved in the Site cleanup have not always done an adequate job of keeping the community informed. One resident has told EPA that she made two telephone calls to EPA to inquire about Site sampling results, but never received a reply. Other individuals have told EPA that local residents have often been unaware of what will happen next at the Site, and have felt left out of the process and “lost in the shuffle.” Some of the residents contacted by EPA were not aware of the local EPA information repository, which contains Site-related documents, and have not received EPA Site fact sheets. Many residents do not fully understand key elements of the Superfund process, including the role of potentially responsible parties, the differences between short-term and long-term cleanup actions, and the relationship between EPA and state environmental agencies.

## **Section 5**

### **Goals of the Community Relations Plan**

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The Community Relations Plan for the Abex Corporation Superfund Site has four goals involving effective two-way communication between EPA and community members. While such communication does not ensure that community members will agree with all of EPA's decisions regarding the Site cleanup, it does enhance their participation and enables them to provide informed input to EPA. The goals listed below involve the cooperative efforts of the EPA Community Relations Coordinator and Remedial Project Manager for the Site, as well as other EPA staff as needed.

**1. Provide community members with useful information about the Superfund process.**

EPA will use printed materials, meetings, and other means to explain the Superfund law and indicate how past, current, and upcoming steps in the Site cleanup fit into the general Superfund process.

**2. Provide timely, Site-specific information to community members.**

EPA will update residents, local officials, and other interested parties on the progress of the Site cleanup. In addition, EPA will make Site documents available to the public.

**3. Provide opportunities for community input.**

EPA staff will listen to and address Site-related comments and questions voiced by community members. This is intended to reduce misunderstanding and minimize frustration on the part of individuals and group, who might otherwise feel "shut out" of the decision-making process.

**4. Enhance communication between EPA and local news media.**

EPA will provide local media outlets with timely information about Site activities, and will invite and address questions from them. Accurate news reports and commentary by local newspapers, radio stations, and television stations will help give community members the information needed to play an informed role in the Site cleanup.

## Section 6

### Community Relations Activities

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Listed and described below are 15 community relations activities for the Abex Corporation Superfund Site designed to achieve the goals summarized in Section 5. These activities are described in relation to Operable Unit 1, which includes contamination within an approximately 700-foot radius of the Abex foundry facility. However, these activities also will be generally applicable to Operable Unit 2, which includes potential contamination in ground water and in areas beyond the approximately 700-foot radius.

Please note that the sequential numbers which accompany the 16 community relations activities are for reference only, and do not necessarily indicate their relative importance. The anticipated time frame for these activities is indicated in the table on pages 32–33. Comments in [bracketed italics] identify those activities which EPA has conducted and will conduct as required by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) and the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP).

#### 1. Notify residents of upcoming Site activities on a regular basis.

**Purpose:** EPA will provide residents with dates and times of upcoming Site activities in order to minimize any disruptions to their normal schedules, enhance their participation in the Site cleanup, and enable them to provide informed input to EPA.

**Contents:** Printed announcements, telephone calls, and availability sessions will focus on current and upcoming Site cleanup work; announce the release of key documents and other milestones; and publicize the time, place, and purpose of public meetings.

**Timing:** EPA will notify residents as needed.

#### 2. Notify local media of upcoming Site activities on a regular basis.

**Purpose:** Rather than simply reacting to news stories, EPA will take a proactive approach and disseminate information about Site activities before they occur. This proactive approach involves issuing press releases, telephoning media representatives, and holding news briefings to provide the media with timely information. Also important is coordination between EPA and DEQ: to the extent practicable, EPA will confer with DEQ and strive to coordinate its media briefings and updates with DEQ activities.

**Contents:** News releases, telephone calls, and briefings will focus on current and upcoming Site activities; announce the release of key documents and other milestones;

and publicize the time, place, and purpose of public meetings.

**Timing:** EPA will update local media as needed.

**3. Designate an EPA primary contact person to handle Site inquiries.**

**Purpose:** EPA has designated a primary contact person to ensure that EPA statements about the Site are coordinated and consistent.

**Contact:** Hal Yates, the EPA Community Relations Coordinator assigned to the Site, is the primary contact person. He will continue to work closely with Ron Davis, EPA's Remedial Project Manager for the Site.

**4. Respond promptly and accurately to inquiries from residents, public officials, government agencies, and the media.**

**Purpose:** Maintaining the two-way flow of information between EPA and other parties will strengthen community involvement and enhance cooperation between EPA and other agencies involved in the Site cleanup, such as DEQ. Timely responses to media inquiries will increase public awareness of Site activities.

**Timing:** EPA will respond to inquiries as needed.

**5. Write and distribute Site fact sheets.**

**Purpose:** Site fact sheets mailed to residents, public officials, and other interested parties will provide updates about Site activities and indicate their relation to the Superfund process.

**Contents:** Fact sheets may include information about past, current, and upcoming Site activities; question and answer sections focusing on community concerns; overviews of remedial technologies; Site maps; listings of EPA and DEQ contact persons; and tear-off forms so that residents can add their names to the EPA site mailing list.

**Timing:** EPA will issue fact sheets as needed to update the community.

**6. Maintain contact with the City of Portsmouth government and the Portsmouth Redevelopment and Housing Authority.**

**Purpose:** Good communication with these points of contact between EPA and Site residents will help keep residents informed of Site activities. (See Appendix A for the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of relevant contact persons.)

**Timing:** EPA will maintain contact as needed to discuss Site developments and



community relations activities.

## **7. Maintain and update the local information repository.**

**Purpose:** EPA will update the information repository's collection of Site-specific EPA documents and information about the Superfund process so that citizens can follow the progress of EPA's Site cleanup and provide informed comment. [EPA will conduct this activity as required by SARA and the NCP.]

**Contents:** The information repository includes the Administrative Record file, which comprises the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study reports, the Proposed Remedial Action Plan, and other documents used by EPA to make its selection of long-term cleanup methods. The repository also includes the Community Involvement Plan, information about the Technical Assistance Grant program, and other information about the Site and the general Superfund process.

**Location:** EPA has established a local information repository at the Portsmouth Public Library. (See Appendix C for the address and telephone number.)

**Timing:** EPA will include new Site documents in the repository as they are released.

## **8. Provide information about EPA's TAG program.**

**Purpose:** Through the TAG program, EPA awards grants to community groups to enable them to hire consultants to help review site documents and disseminate the information to the site community.

**Timing:** EPA terminated the TAG awarded to PARIS at the request of the PARIS president. If the Agency decides that more than one TAG can be awarded per site, EPA will issue a public notice to the community announcing the availability of the TAG and inviting applications.

## **9. Publish public notices.**

**Purpose:** EPA will use public notices in local newspapers to inform the community of key Site developments, public meetings, the release of Site documents, and the start of public comment periods. [EPA used public notices to announce the availability of the the Proposed Plan to Amend the Record of Decision, and will use public notices to announce the availability of the new Record of Decision, as required by SARA and the NCP.]

**Contents:** Notices will include relevant dates, times, and locations, as well as the name, address, and phone number of the EPA primary contact person. Notices regarding Site documents will briefly summarize the documents.

**Timing:** EPA has placed public notices to announce the availability of the Proposed Plan to Amend the Record of Decision, and will place public notices to announce the availability of the new Record of Decision. In addition, EPA has placed and will continue to place public notices for other reasons as needed.

## **10. Conduct public meetings.**

**Purpose:** Public meetings are an efficient means of updating the community on Site developments and addressing community questions and comments. [EPA held a public meeting during the public comment period on the Proposed Plan to Amend the Record of Decision, and will hold a public meeting following the completion of the final engineering design for the Site cleanup, as required by SARA and the NCP.]

**Participants:** The EPA Community Relations Coordinator, the EPA Remedial Project Manager, and other EPA staff as needed will participate in the meetings. EPA welcomes the participation of staff from DEQ.

**Timing:** On February 24, 1994, EPA held a public meeting on the Proposed Plan to Amend the Record of Decision. EPA will hold a public meeting following the completion of the final engineering design for the Site cleanup. In addition, EPA has held and will hold other meetings as needed.

## **11. Obtain a transcript of the public meeting on the Proposed Plan.**

**Purpose:** EPA obtained an official transcript of the public meeting on the Proposed Plan to Amend the Record of Decision, and subsequently made the transcript available to the public in order to document all information presented at the public meeting. [EPA conducted these activities as required by SARA and the NCP.]

**Contents:** The transcript is a complete, word-for-word record of the public meeting.

**Timing:** The transcript was placed in the local information repository after the public meeting on the Proposed Plan to Amend the Record of Decision.

## **12. Prepare a Responsiveness Summary.**

**Purpose:** The Responsiveness Summary will summarize input received by EPA during the public comment period on the Proposed Plan to Amend the Record of Decision. [EPA will prepare a Responsiveness Summary as required by SARA and the NCP.]

**Contents:** The Responsiveness Summary will summarize public comments and questions regarding the cleanup alternatives described in the Proposed Plan to Amend the Record of Decision, as well as EPA responses.

**Timing:** EPA will release the Responsiveness Summary as an attachment to the new Record of Decision.

### **13. Conduct informal meetings and workshops.**

**Purpose:** Informal meetings and workshops on Site issues will enable EPA to share information and solicit input from the community.

**Participants:** The EPA Community Relations Coordinator, the EPA Remedial Project Manager, other EPA staff, and other individuals as needed will participate in the meetings and workshops.

**Timing:** EPA will schedule informal meetings and workshops as needed, based on community interest.

### **14. Maintain and update Site mailing lists.**

**Purpose:** EPA maintains an up-to-date listing of federal, State, and local officials; local media; and other interested parties. EPA also maintains a separate, confidential list of residents in the Site area. EPA uses both lists in mailing Site fact sheets, providing telephone updates, and conducting other community involvement activities as needed.

**Contents:** See Appendix A for the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of federal, State, and local officials; local media; and other interested parties.

**Timing:** EPA will update the lists as needed to reflect new information.

### **15. Revise the Community Relations Plan.**

**Purpose:** EPA will revise the Community Relations Plan, if necessary, to address community needs and concerns regarding the design and implementation of the Site remedy which are not already addressed in the Community Relations Plan. [EPA will conduct this activity, if necessary, as required by SARA and the NCP.]

**Contents:** The Revised Community Relations Plan will update the information presented in the previous version of the Community Relations Plan.

**Timing:** EPA will revise the Community Relations Plan as needed.

## ***Table 1*** ***Community Relations Activities and Timing***

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Timing</b>
1. Notify residents of upcoming Site activities.	As needed.
2. Notify local media of upcoming Site activities.	As needed.
3. Designate an EPA primary contact person.	Person has been designated.
4. Respond promptly and accurately to inquiries.	As needed.
5. Write and distribute Site fact sheets.	As needed.
6. Maintain contact with the City of Portsmouth government and the Portsmouth Redevelopment and Housing Authority.	As needed.
7. Maintain and update the local information repository.	As new Site documents are released.
8. Supervise Technical Assistance Grant activities.	As needed.
9. Release a Proposed Plan and hold a public comment comment period.	Minimum 30-day public period.
10. Publish public notices.	To announce the availability of the Proposed Plan and the Record of Decision, and for other reasons as needed.
11. Conduct public meetings.	To discuss the Proposed Plan and the final engineering design, and for other reasons as needed.
12. Obtain a transcript of the public meeting on the Proposed Plan.	Obtain and place in the local information repository after the public meeting.
13. Prepare a Responsiveness Summary.	Release as an attachment to the Record of Decision.
14. Conduct informal meetings and workshops.	As needed, based on community interest.
15. Maintain and update Site mailing lists.	Lists established; update as needed.
16. Revise the Community Involvement Plan.	As needed.

#### **A. Federal Elected Officials**

### **APPENDIX A Interested Party and Contact List**

Representative Robert C. Scott

501 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 225-8351  
(202) 225-8534 FAX

Ann Tedrick  
Legislative Assistant  
2600 Washington Avenue  
Newport News, VA 23607  
(804) 380-1000  
(804) 928-6694 FAX

Representative Norman Sisisky  
2321 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 225-6365  
(202) 226-1170 FAX

Chris Plaushin  
Legislative Assistant  
309 County Street  
Portsmouth, VA 23704  
(804) 393-2068  
(804) 399-1997 FAX

Senator John W. Warner  
225 Russell Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
(202) 224-2023  
(202) 224-6295 FAX  
[senator@warner.senate.gov](mailto:senator@warner.senate.gov)

Anne Loomis  
Legislative Assistant  
4900 World Trade Center  
Norfolk, VA 23510  
(804) 441-3079  
(804) 441-6250 FAX

Senator Charles S. Robb  
493 Russell Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
(202) 224-4024  
(202) 224-8689 FAX

senator\_robb@robb.senate.gov  
Nicole Venable  
Legislative Assistant

Dominion Towers, Suite 107  
999 Waterside Drive  
Norfolk, VA 23510  
(804) 441-3124  
(804) 640-1502 FAX

Congressman Herbert H. Bateman  
2350 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 225-4261  
(202) 225-4382 FAX

Paul McClung  
Legislative Assistant  
739 Thimble Shoals Boulevard, #803  
Newport News, VA 23606  
(804) 873-1132  
(804) 599-0424 FAX

Representative Rick Boucher  
2245 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 225-3861  
(202) 225-0442 FAX  
NINTHET@hr.house.gov

Andy Wright  
Legislative Assistant  
188 E. Main Street  
Abingdon, VA 24210  
(540) 628-4310  
(540) 628-2203 FAX

## **B. State Elected Officials**

Governor George Allen  
State Capitol  
Richmond, VA 23219  
(804) 786-2211

Lieutenant Governor Donald S. Beyer, Jr.  
State Capitol  
Richmond, VA 23219  
(804) 786-2211

Delegate William S. Moore, Jr.  
Room 803 General Assembly Building  
P.O. Box 406  
Richmond, VA 23218  
(804) 786-6889

P.O. Box 6190  
Portsmouth, VA 23703  
(804) 686-3600

Delegate Kenneth R. Melvin  
Room 813 General Assembly Building  
P.O. Box 406  
Richmond, VA 23218  
(804) 786-6888

601 Dinwiddie Street  
Portsmouth, VA 23704  
(804) 397-1009

Senator L. Louise Lucas  
Room 390 General Assembly Building  
Richmond, VA 23219  
(804) 786-6693

1120 Lakeview Drive  
Portsmouth, VA 23701  
(804) 487-5705

## **C. Local Officials**

Ms. Gloria O. Webb  
Mayor, City of Portsmouth  
P.O. Box 820  
Portsmouth, VA 23705  
(804) 393-8746

Johnny M. Clemens  
Vice-Mayor  
City of Portsmouth  
P.O. Box 820  
Portsmouth, VA 23705  
(804) 393-8000

City of Portsmouth Council  
P.O. Box 820  
Portsmouth, VA 23705  
(804) 393-8000  
James C. Hawks  
Bernard D. Griffin, Sr.  
Cameron Pitts  
James T. Martin  
P. Ward Robinett, Jr.

Ronald Massic  
City Manager  
City of Portsmouth  
P.O. Box 820  
Portsmouth, VA 23705  
(804) 393-8641

Mr. Robert P. Creecy  
Director of Management and Legislative Affairs  
City of Portsmouth  
P.O. Box 820  
Portsmouth, VA 23705  
(804) 393-8614

Ms. Tracy Smith  
Director of Public Affairs  
City of Portsmouth  
P.O. Box 820  
Portsmouth, VA 23705  
(804) 393-8432

Ms. Venita Newby Owens, M.D.



Public Health Director  
800 Crawford Parkway  
Portsmouth, VA 23704  
(804) 396-6819

Danny Cruce  
Director, Portsmouth Redevelopment and Housing Authority  
P.O. Box 1098  
Portsmouth, VA 23705  
(804) 399-5261

#### **D. EPA Region III Officials**

Ron Davis (3HW41)  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III  
Remedial Project Manager  
841 Chestnut Building  
Philadelphia, PA 19107  
(215) 597-1727

Harold Yates (3EA30)  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III  
Senior Community Involvement Coordinator  
841 Chestnut Building  
Philadelphia, PA 19107  
(215) 597-4081

#### **E. Virginia Department of Environmental Quality**

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality  
4900 Cox Road  
Glen Allen, VA 23060  
(804) 527-5190

#### **F. Media**

##### **Newspapers**

*Virginian-Pilot* and the *Ledger-Star*  
150 West Brambleton Avenue  
Norfolk, VA 23510  
(804) 446-2000  
(804) 626-1375 FAX (Display Advertising)

Advertising Contact: Phyllis Moore  
\$2.86 per line per day  
Submit ads 3 days prior to event

307 County Street  
Portsmouth, VA 23704  
(804) 446-2612  
(804) 446-2607 FAX

*The Portsmouth Times*  
P.O. Box 1327  
Chesapeake, VA 23327  
(804) 397-7606  
(804) 548-0390 FAX  
Advertising Contact: Sandra Smelley  
\$8.75 per column inch  
Submit ads by Monday at 5:00 pm for Friday publication

*Associated Press*  
700 E. Main Street  
Suite 1380  
Richmond, VA 23219  
(804) 643-6646  
News Editor: Bob Lewis

**Radio Stations**  
WFOG  
215 Brooke Avenue  
Norfolk, VA 23510  
(804) 622-6771  
(804) 624-9501 FAX  
News Director: Carol Horton  
Public Service Announcement Director: Chuck Allen  
Submit PSA 3 weeks prior to event

WNIS  
500 Dominion Tower  
999 Waterside Road  
Norfolk, VA 23510  
(804) 640-8500  
(804) 640-8552 FAX  
News Director: Dave Morgan  
Public Service Announcement Director: Ken Johnson  
Submit PSA 2 weeks prior to event

**Television Stations**

Cox Cable Systems  
Ervin Hill, Director of Communications  
4585 Village Avenue  
Norfolk, VA 23502  
(804) 858-5216  
(804) 857-6716 FAX

Cox Cable Systems  
225 Clearfield Avenue  
Virginia Beach, VA 23462  
(804) 497-1071  
(804) 671-1501 FAX

WAVY-TV 10 (NBC)  
Bob Cashen, News Director  
300 Wavy Street  
Portsmouth, VA 23704  
(804) 393-1010  
(804) 399-7628 FAX  
News Director: David Strickland  
Public Service Announcement Director: Connie Allen  
Submit PSA 2 weeks prior to event

WGNT-TV 27 (IND)  
1318 Spratley Street  
Portsmouth, VA 23704  
(804) 399-2501  
(804) 399-3303 FAX  
Public Service Announcement Director: Betsy Newman  
Submit PSA 2 weeks prior to event

WVEC-TV 13 (ABC)  
613 Woodis Avenue  
Norfolk, VA 23510  
(804) 625-1313  
(804) 628-6220 FAX  
News Director: Dave Cassidy  
Public Service Announcement Director: Sherri Brennan  
Submit PSA 2 weeks prior to event

WTKR-TV 3 (CBS)

720 Boush Street  
Norfolk, VA 23510  
(804) 446-1000  
(804) 446-1376 FAX  
News Director: Barbara Hamm  
Public Service Announcement Director: Julie McCullum  
Submit PSA 2-3 weeks prior to event

## **H. Potentially Responsible Parties**

The City of Portsmouth  
The Portsmouth Redevelopment and Housing Authority  
Pneumo Abex Corporation, Hampton, NH  
Bessemer and Lake Erie Railroad Company Inc., Monroeville, PA  
CSX Transportation Inc., Jacksonville, FL  
Florida East Coast Industries  
Fruit Growers Express Company Inc., Alexandria, VA  
Holland Investment and Manufacturing Company Inc., Suffolk, VA  
Norfolk & Western Railway Company, Norfolk, VA  
Pittsburgh and Lake Erie Railroad Company Inc., Pittsburgh, PA  
Richmond, Fredricksburg, and Potomac Railroad Company Inc., Richmond, VA  
The Runnymede Corporation, Virginia Beach, VA  
Wimco Metals Inc., Pittsburgh, PA  
Union Railroad Company Inc., Monroeville, PA

## **I. Other Interested Parties**

Sierra Club  
833 Washington Road  
Chesapeake, VA 23320  
(804) 340-0322

Kevin Mack  
Clean Water Action Program  
201 Granby Street  
Room 510  
Norfolk, VA 23510  
(804) 623-4784

Mr. Sidney Duck  
Director of Operational Services  
Portsmouth Public Schools

3920 Burtons Point Road  
Portsmouth, VA 23704  
(804) 393-8332

Mr. Pomar K. Tootoo, Principal  
Brighton Public School  
1101 Jefferson Street  
Portsmouth, VA 23704  
(804) 393-8870

Mr. & Mrs. John V. Tuttle  
Lower James River Association  
4731 River Shore Road  
Portsmouth, VA 23703

Ms. Maggie Anderson  
Prentiss Park Civic League  
1510 Parker Avenue  
Portsmouth, VA 23704  
(804) 399-5463

Mr. Rafiq Zaidi  
Black Concerned Citizens League  
944 Lincoln Street  
Portsmouth, VA 23704

Effingham Conservation Area  
720 Henry Street  
Portsmouth, VA 23704  
(804) 399-7290

Hampton University  
East Queen Street  
Hampton, VA 23668  
(804) 727-5000

St. John Episcopal Church  
424 Washington Street  
Portsmouth, VA 23704  
(804) 399-4967

St. James Episcopal Church

928 Effingham Street  
Portsmouth, VA 23704

Third Baptist Church  
Reverend Joseph B. Fleming, Pastor  
461 Godwin Street  
Portsmouth, VA 23704  
(804) 393-9312

Fourth Baptist Church  
726 South Street  
Portsmouth, VA 23704  
(804) 393-6657

Ebenezer Baptist Church  
728 Effingham Street  
Portsmouth, VA 23704  
(804) 393-1662

Mount Calvary Church  
901 Thomas Circle  
Portsmouth, VA 23704  
(804) 399-2656

Jo Silva  
People Against Ruthless Injustices in the System (PARIS)  
(804) 686-0777

## **APPENDIX B**

### **Public Meeting Locations and Stenographic Information**

#### **Public Meeting Locations**

Washington Park Community Center  
1415 Effingham Street  
Portsmouth, VA 23704

*Contact:*

Ms. Olivia Bird, Manager  
(804) 399-5261, Ext. 291 (Office)  
(804) 399-5261, Ext. 228 (Community Center)

*Resources:*

To be provided.

Effingham Street YMCA  
1013 Effingham Street  
Portsmouth, VA 23704

*Contact:*

Mr. Eric Nelson  
(804) 399-5511

*Resources:*

To be provided.

#### **Stenographic Information**

Tayloe Associates  
6330 Newtown Road, Suite 617  
Norfolk, VA 23502

*Contact:*

Frank Tayloe  
(804) 461-1984

- *Has experience with EPA meetings.*

Associated Court Reporters

125 St. Paul Boulevard  
Norfolk, VA 23502

*Contact:*

Kristin

(804) 622-3603

- *Has experience in environmental hearings.*

Leslie Jolly Reporting

P.O. Box 654

Portsmouth, VA 23705

*Contact:*

Leslie Jolly

(804) 393-6260

- *Has experience in public hearings.*



## **APPENDIX C**

### **Information Repository**

Portsmouth Public Library  
601 Court Street  
Portsmouth, VA 23704

*Contact:*

Mr. Dean Burgess, Librarian  
(804) 393-8501

*Hours:*

Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

*Resources:*

Photocopiers, 2 meeting rooms  
Meeting room #1 capacity: 12 people  
Meeting room #2 capacity: 50 people

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## **APPENDIX D**

### **Glossary of Terms**

**Administrative Record:** The official file containing the Remedial Investigation report, Risk Assessment, Feasibility Study report, and all other documents which provide the basis for EPA's selection of a remedial (cleanup) alternative at a Superfund site.

**Aquifer:** A geological formation found beneath the earth's surface containing fresh water.

**Cleanup:** An action taken to deal with a release or threatened release of hazardous substances that could adversely affect public health and or the environment. The word "cleanup" is used to refer to both short-term (removal) actions and long-term (remedial response) actions at Superfund sites.

**Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA):** A Federal law (commonly known as "Superfund") passed in 1980 and modified in 1986 by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA). The law gave EPA the authority to investigate sites where there is a suspected threat to public health and or the environment caused by the release or potential release of hazardous substances. The law also created a special tax on the chemical and petroleum industries. Monies collected under the tax are deposited into a trust fund to be used to clean up abandoned or uncontrolled waste sites. Under the law, EPA can:

- pay for site cleanup when the parties responsible for site contamination cannot be located or are unwilling or unable to perform the cleanup; or
- take legal action to force parties responsible for site contamination to clean up the site or pay back the Federal government for the cost of the cleanup.

**Feasibility Study (FS):** A study which identifies and screens site cleanup alternatives, and analyzes the technologies and costs associated with these alternatives.

**Focused Feasibility Study (FFS):** A detailed assessment of cleanup alternatives for one part of a site.

**Ground Water:** Fresh water usually located in geological formations beneath the earth's surface containing fresh water (aquifers). Ground water is a major source of drinking water.

**Hazard Ranking System (HRS):** A scoring system used by EPA to evaluate sites based mainly on the potential threat of hazardous substances spreading through ground water, surface water, and air. The HRS also takes into account other factors, such as the location of residents in relation to sites. An HRS score of 28.5 or higher qualifies a site for inclusion on the National Priorities List.

**Information Repository:** A collection of documents about a specific Superfund site and the

general Superfund process. EPA usually places the information repository in a public building that is conveniently located, is accessible to the handicapped, and contains a photocopying machine.

**National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP):** The Federal regulation that guides the Superfund program, revised in 1990.

**National Priorities List (NPL):** EPA's list of the nation's most serious uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites identified for possible long-term cleanup using Superfund money. EPA updates the NPL at least once a year.

**Preferred Alternative:** The site cleanup method preferred by EPA and highlighted in the Proposed Remedial Action Plan. The Preferred Alternative is a preliminary selection, and is subject to evaluation during the public comment period.

**Proposed Remedial Action Plan (Proposed Plan):** A Superfund site document which reviews the cleanup alternatives presented in the site Feasibility Study and identifies EPA's Preferred Alternative. EPA must actively solicit public review of and comment on all the alternatives under consideration.

**Public Comment Period:** A period during which the public can review and comment on various documents and EPA actions. For example, EPA holds a public comment period when it proposes to add sites to the National Priorities List. EPA also holds a minimum 30-day public comment period to allow community members to review and comment on Proposed Plans.

**Record of Decision (ROD):** A public document that announces and explains the cleanup method(s) EPA will use at a National Priorities List site. The ROD is based on information and technical analysis generated during the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study and on EPA's consideration of comments received during the public comment period.

**Remedial Action:** The actual construction or implementation phase that follows the Remedial Design of the selected cleanup alternative at a National Priorities List site.

**Remedial Design:** An engineering phase that follows the Record of Decision in which technical drawings and specifications are developed for the remedial action at a site.

**Remedial Investigation (RI):** A study which identifies the nature and extent of site contamination and determines the threat this contamination poses to human health and the environment.

**Remedial Response:** A long-term cleanup action that stops or greatly reduces a release or threatened release of hazardous substances that is serious, but does not pose an immediate threat to public health or the environment.

**Removal Action:** An immediate, short-term cleanup action that addresses a release or threatened release of hazardous substances that does, or potentially could, pose an immediate threat to public

health and/or the environment.

**Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA):** A Federal law that established a regulatory system to track hazardous substances from the time of generation to disposal. The law requires that safe and secure procedures be used in treating, transporting, storing, and disposing hazardous substances. RCRA is intended to prevent the creation of new, uncontrolled hazardous waste sites.

**Responsiveness Summary:** A summary of oral and written comments (and EPA responses to those comments) which EPA receives during the public comment period. The Responsiveness Summary is part of the Record of Decision.

**Risk Assessment:** A study, normally conducted during the Remedial Investigation, which evaluates and describes the risks to human health and the environment posed by site contamination. The risk assessment uses statistical models and mathematical calculations.

**Superfund:** The name commonly used to refer to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).

**Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA):** Modifications to CERCLA enacted on October 17, 1986.

**Surface Water:** Ponds, lakes, rivers, and other bodies of water naturally open to the atmosphere.

**Technical Assistance Grant (TAG):** An EPA grant of up to \$50,000 which can be awarded to a bona fide citizens group in a Superfund site area. The grant enables that group to hire a technical expert to review and interpret site reports issued by EPA or other parties.

**Treatability Study:** A laboratory or field test designed to provide data needed to evaluate and implement a treatment technology.

## **APPENDIX E**

### **Technical Assistance Grant Information**

EPA provides Technical Assistance Grants (TAGs) of up to \$50,000 as part of its Superfund community relations program. The Technical Assistance Grant program enables citizens in a site area to hire a technical expert to review and interpret site reports generated by EPA or other parties. Complete information on Technical Assistance Grants is contained in an EPA document titled *The Citizens' Guidance Manual for the Technical Assistance Grant Program*, which is made available with all Site information at the local information repository designated in Appendix C of this Community Relations Plan. For additional information on how to apply for a Technical Assistance Grant, contact:

Harold Yates (3EA21)  
Community Relations Coordinator  
U. S. EPA Region III  
841 Chestnut Building  
Philadelphia, PA 19107  
(215) 597-4081

EPA accepts applications for Technical Assistance Grants as mandated by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act. Only one group per site can receive a Technical Assistance Grant, so EPA urges local groups to join together to apply.

**APPENDIX F**  
**Sample Fact Sheet**